

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1739

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM SREF WZ

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S INITIAL CALL ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: DURING MY INITIAL CALL, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF SWAZILAND KHUMALO INDICATED INTEREST IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, EMPHASIZING GOS ANTI-COMMUNIST CONCERNS. HE REACTED TO KING SOBHUZA'S PRAISE (AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONY) OF U.S. ROLE IN "DEFENSE AND MAINTENANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS", FIRST BY STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS AND THEN RESORTING TO UNTRUTHS IN ATTEMPTING TO RATIONALIZE DETENTIONS IN SWAZILAND. FINALLY, DPM REFERRED TO INCREASING DIFFICULTY OF DEALING WITH REFUGEES. THIS MESSAGE WAS PREPARED BY CHARGE WACHOB BASED ON NOTES OF THE MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. HORN OF AFRICA. I OPENED FEB 24 MEETING BY NOTING THAT, IN CONVERSATION AFTER CREDENTIALS CEREMONY, KING HAD SHOWN INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. I ASKED DPM WHETHER THERE WERE ISSUES ON WHICH HE BELIEVED KING AND GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME USG-PROVIDED INPUT. DPM REPLIED THAT AN ISSUE OF CONSIDERABLE CURRENT INTEREST WAS HORN OF AFRICA AND HE INQUIRED ABOUT US INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SUPPORTING SOMALIA. I MENTIONED ETHIOPIAN AND SOVIET ASSURANCES AGAINST INVASION

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OF SOMALIA AND RECALLED OAU'S VIEW THAT AFRICANS SHOULD SETTLE OWN DISPUTES. DPM COUNTERED THAT AFRICANS RECOGNIZED US SOPHISTICATION AND GREATER EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH SOVIETS, AND WOULD WELCOME SUBTLE US ASSISTANCE "TO DEFUSE THE SOVIET BOMB". HE ADDED THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAD PERFORMED SUCH A SERVICE IN RIDDING EGYPT OF RUSSIANS BY "SENDING A BIG CHECK TO SADAT".

3. ZIMBABWE. TURNING TO SMITH'S "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT", DPM EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT CUBANS WERE BIDDING THEIR TIME, WAITING FOR SMITH TO LEAVE THE SCENE WITHOUT AN AGREED SETTLEMENT. HE SAID GOS HAD MADE NO COMMENT ON THE SETTLEMENT; ITS CONCERN WAS THAT IT BE PEACEFUL.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS. I EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT KING'S CREDENTIALS REMARKS INCLUDED REFERENCE TO US ROLE IN "DEFENSE AND MAINTENANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS" IN ALL COUNTRIES. I NOTED THAT DCM WACHOB HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH GOS ON THIS SUBJECT. DPM REPLIED DEFENSIVELY THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ANY COUNTRY MUST BE JUDGED IN PERSPECTIVE OF NATIONAL CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS. HE SAID SOME REMARKS IN DEPARTMENT'S REPORT, I.E., ON CORRUPTION AND NEPOTISM, HAD OBVIOUSLY STEMMED FROM OBSERVATIONS OF LOCAL "POLITICIANS" WHO HAD AXES TO GRIND. I NOTED DESIRABILITY OF WIDENING CONTRAST WITH SOUTH AFRICAN PRACTICE RE DETENTIONS AND WONDERED IF CASES COULD NOT BE HANDLED AS EFFECTIVELY THROUGH COURT SYSTEM. DPM REPLIED THAT "ALL DETENTION CASES IN SWAZILAND HAD NATIONAL SECURITY ASPECTS" WHICH REQUIRED THAT PROCEEDINGS BE HELD IN CAMERA. HE EXPLAINED THAT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY IS ESTABLISHED, AND GAZETTED, ON AD HOC BASIS TO REVIEW EACH DETENTION CASE, DURING WHICH PROCESS THE DETAINEE'S LAWYER IS FREE TO PARTICIPATE AND CROSS-EXAMINE. COMMISSION IS EMPOWERED TO RECOMMEND STRIPPING DETAINEE OF CITIZENSHIP. DPM REGRETTED THAT USG REPORT DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE FAIRNESS OF THESE DETENTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVISIONS AND SAID WHOLE THING WAS BEING SPELLED OUT IN GOS COMMENT ON DEPARTMENT'S REPORT. (COMMENT: EMBASSY'S RESPONSE WILL AWAIT OUR RECEIPT OF GOS WRITTEN COMMENTS. HOWEVER, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO NOTE IN MEANTIME, FIRST, THAT NOT ALL DETENTION CASES INVOLVE NATIONAL SECURITY UNDER ANY DEFINITION AND, SECONDLY, THAT PROCEEDINGS DESCRIBED BY DPM SEEM TO APPLY ONLY TO PERSONS WITH GRAY-AREA CLAIMS TO SWAZI CITIZENSHIP AND NOT RPT NOT TO PROVEN SWAZIS SUCH AS DETAINEE PRINCE DUMISA AND DETAINEE DR. AMBROSE ZWANE. WE CANNOT IMAGINE THAT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY, WITH ITS QUASI-LEGAL PROCEDURES RELATING TO LOSS-OF-CITIZENSHIP, WOULD EVER BE ESTABLISHED IN CASES OF THESE OR OTHER SWAZIS; THIS MEANS THAT IN EFFECT SUCH INDIVIDUALS ARE DEPRIVED OF ANY KIND OF HEARING AT ALL, SINCE APRIL 1973 SECURITY PROCLAMATION FORBIDS COURT INQUIRY INTO DETENTIONS. END COMMENT.)

5. REFUGEES. DPM REFERRED TO AMBASSADOR CLARK'S REFUGEE-SURVEY VISIT TO SWAZILAND AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT CLARK'S REPORT WOULD PAVE WAY FOR USG HELP ON SWZAILAND'S REFUGEE PROBLEM. I REPLIED THAT USG PREFERRED TO CHANNEL REFUGEE ASSISTANCE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS. I NOTED THAT CLARK HAD RECOMMENDED

THAT LIMITED FUNDS BE PLACED AT AMBASSADORS' DISPOSAL FOR REFUGEE CASES; THIS RECOMMENDATION HAD NOT YET WON CONGRESSIONAL ACCEPTANCE. DPM COMMENTED ON INCREASING DIFFICULTY WITH, AND UNPOPULARITY OF, REFUGEES AND SAID EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED TO HELP GOS SET UP CAMPS WHERE REFUGEES CAN BE ISOLATED FROM REST OF POPULATION, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF RECENT DISCOVERIES OF ARMS CACHES. HE TURNED TO MATTER OF "FOUR OR FIVE THOUSAND" SOUTH AFRICAN CHILDREN STUDYING IN SWAZILAND AS ALTERNATIVE TO REPUBLIC'S BANTU EDUCATION SYSTEM. HE SAID SWAZILAND MUST BE HOSPITABLE TO THESE "REFUGEE" CHILDREN, MANY OF WHOM ARE ETHNIC SWAZIS BUT ALL OF WHOM ARE TAKING SCHOOL PLACES AWAY FROM SWAZILAND CHILDREN. I SAID CONSIDERATION OF SWAZILAND'S PROBLEM WOULD BE FACILITATED BY HAVING ACCESS TO HARD FACTS ON REFUGEE POPULATION, INCLUDING PROFILE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY AGE, SEX, ETC. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD THAT DPM PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE IN REFUGEE MATTERS. HE REPLIED THAT HE WAS IN FACT MINISTER IN CHARGE. HE TURNED TO HIS PERMANENT SECRETARY AND ASKED FOR THE NUMBERS I HAD REQUESTED. PERMANENT SECRETARY SAID GOS DID NOT HAVE THE DATA.

6. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, I INDICATED THAT, AS DPM AWARE, US-SWAZILAND DIALOGUE ON THESE AND OTHER MATTERS WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN MY ABSENCE BY DCM WACHOB.  
NORLAND

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## Message Attributes

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